

business method patents that have a commercial nexus into this new program for review. This program was designed to be construed as broadly as possible and as USPTO develops regulations to administer the program that must remain the goal.

The strength of our patent system relies on not simply the mechanical granting of a patent, but the granting of strong patents, ones that are truly novel and non-obvious inventions, that are true innovations and not the product of legal gamesmanship. This provision is an integral component of H.R. 1249 and will not only help correct past mistakes but ensure a stronger U.S. patent system going forward.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARGE THOMAS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I honor Marge Thomas, who is retiring as the president and chief executive officer of Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake. Ms. Thomas began her career with Goodwill in Milwaukee in 1974 and rose to become the first woman executive in the enterprise to win a national Goodwill Industries leadership award, to go along with Outstanding Management and Distinguished Career Awards.

Ms. Thomas took over Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake in 1994 and transformed the agency into one of Baltimore's largest nonprofit organizations during her nearly 18-year tenure. When she joined Goodwill Chesapeake in 1994, the agency served 453 people, operated 17 stores, and had total revenues of \$8 million. Today, it serves more than 17,000 people, and the organization has expanded to include nine training sites and 26 retail stores, and it has government contracts throughout the greater Baltimore region and the Eastern Shore. Total revenues have grown to \$40 million, with nearly \$30 million generated through the agency's retail operations. Her accomplishments include expanding Goodwill services to provide a variety of training and employment needs for individuals who have mental and physical disabilities, including those needing public assistance, and those who have criminal backgrounds or face other employment challenges.

Congress would do well to learn from Ms. Thomas, who has found ways during these trying economic times to create jobs, train employees, and increase revenues. She has offered a helping hand and, more important, hope to many people struggling to climb onto the first rung of the economic ladder. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Thomas for a job well done; for her lifelong commitment to public service and for her many outstanding contributions in helping the less fortunate among us. She has made a positive difference in so many people's lives. I know her future plans include

some travel, attending some classes at Anne Arundel Community College, and serving as a mentor to women nonprofit executives. Please join me in sending best wishes to Marge Thomas for a happy, productive, and well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO TERIGI ROSSI

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I would like to join the Massachusetts relatives and friends of Massachusetts native son Terigi Rossi in celebrating 15 remarkable years as a police officer in Dallas, TX, the last 10 as a member of that city's elite SWAT Team.

The name Terigi Rossi may be familiar to television viewers. Officer Rossi was featured in "Dallas SWAT," a reality television series on the A&E Network that followed members of the Dallas SWAT Team in 2006-2007. The TV cameras captured the gritty, life-on-the-line experiences of Officer Rossi and his fellow SWAT Team members, but they also followed them home, showing the family life of officers whose lives are always in danger but who always put family first.

In Officer Rossi's case, viewer had an intimate view of a man who with his fellow officer is called out to capture a bank robbery suspect barricaded inside a garage, or responding to another call, trying to stop a suspected drug dealer from destroying evidence. But when the work day is done, the cameras followed Officer Rossi through training for an amateur boxing match, then back home where he cooks chicken cutlets for dinner with his wife Grace and their two sons, 15-year-old Antonio and 11-year-old Terigi. Then, it is off to his part time job as a security guard to supplement the family income.

As a prosecutor in Middlesex County in the 1970s, I worked with hundreds of police officers. And it was clear how much we ask of these officers. They are required to be many things to many people—minister, social worker, keeper of the peace, the lawman with the courage to face the armed suspects at great personal risk. And since the late 1960s, some of the best of these lawmen have been recruited into elite tactical units to perform dangerous and high-risk operations—lawmen like Terigi Rossi.

Terigi Rossi grew up on Harley Avenue in the city of Everett, MA. He graduated from Malden Catholic High School where, not surprisingly, this 6-foot 230-pound athlete was a lineman on the football team, playing offense and defense. He graduated from Suffolk University where he was recruited by the city of Dallas to serve on their police force, one of the largest in the Nation, with 2,977 sworn officers and 556 civilians.

And I have to say—Massachusetts's loss was Texas's gain, because Terigi Rossi would have been a great addition to any police force in our State. Just look at the 15 years this always-on-the-go officer has spent on the Dallas po-

lice force, including 10 years with the city's always-ready-to-go 50-member SWAT Team as a specialist in gas and chemical weaponry.

Officer Rossi's family and friends back home in Massachusetts, particularly my friend Tom Ciulla, are justifiably proud of his record of public service. I join them in celebrating not only his 15 years in a police uniform but also his 10 years in the armor of the Dallas SWAT Team. And I send thanks to Grace, Antonio and Terigi for their support of Officer Rossi. They know as well as any that law enforcement officers are never off duty. They protect the public any time and any place that the peace is threatened. And we should give them all they help they need.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE BRUCE Q. MORIN

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I express my thanks and congratulations to a son and servant of my State of Rhode Island. Bruce Q. Morin, associate judge of the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court, has recently retired after a long career in public service.

I first had the pleasure of getting to know Judge Morin in the early 1990s, when I was a policy adviser to then-Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun. At the time, the Rhode Island worker's compensation system was broken and on the verge of insolvency. Costs had risen to unbearable levels. Insurers were departing the Rhode Island system. The problem seemed politically intractable. And worst of all, the means of providing adequate support to injured workers in Rhode Island was in danger.

Well, working together we completely overhauled the system. A central component of the overhaul was the creation of Rhode Island's Workers' Compensation Court, specifically designed to hear and decide all disputes between an injured employee and an employer relating to workers' compensation benefits. Governor Sundlun appointed Bruce Morin to the court in 1991, the year it was created, and he has dutifully and honorably served both the state of Rhode Island and the citizens who have come before his bench for 20 years.

Today, the Rhode Island workers' compensation system stands as a national model. Rhode Island has been able to permanently reduce costs, stabilize the workers' compensation market, eliminate fraud, protect injured workers, and save Rhode Island businesses hundreds of millions of dollars. Rhode Island's system now has the lowest average medical cost per employee per year in the entire country.

We owe a great measure of that success to Judge Morin, Chief Judge Healey, former Chief Judge Arrigan, and the rest of the court for implementation of the law in the best interests of the State of Rhode Island.

From his days serving his country, both with the Judge Advocate General